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# Pentagon Plans to Extend Secrecy Restrictions on Technical Data

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 — The Defense Department plans to expand its secrecy rules in an effort to prevent technical information from being passed to the Soviet Union or other potential adversaries, according to Pentagon officials.

A proposed directive outlining the additions is under review. According to a recent draft, it would cover technical information generated by research, development, test and evaluation programs financed by the Department of Defense.

The proposed directive is aimed primarily at technical information produced by the Defense Department and military tests and experiments, but would also cover work done for the Pentagon in universities or private research organizations.

The new rules would cover unclassified information that is now freely disseminated to the public. The directive could be used to withhold information from Congress and the public on weapon development. Flaws discovered during development have often triggered Congressional demands that funds for certain weapons be cut.

For example, the proposed directive appears to rule out making public most of the information on test flights of MX or Pershing 2 missiles, both of which have been the subject of long-running disputes in Congress.

## A New Classification System

The proposal, under final review by Deputy Secretary of Defense William Howard Taft 4th and other senior officials, was disclosed in Monday's edition of Defense Week, a trade publication. It calls for setting up a system of classifications in addition to the existing system under which documents are marked "For Official Use Only," "Confidential," "Secret" or "Top Secret." More sensitive classifications

are designated by code words that are themselves secret.

How the new regulations would be enforced and what the penalties would be for violations could not be immediately determined.

The proposed system would have seven categories. Documents rated A, for example, would be eligible for public release. Those in the C category could be distributed only to government agencies and contractors. Those rated F could be distributed "only as directed."

Documents in the X category could be distributed only to government agencies and private individuals already eligible to export technical information.

The proposed directive said it would apply "to unclassified technical data, in the possession of or under the control of Department of Defense components, that has military or space application and that may not be exported lawfully" without government approval.

The draft gives a long list of materials to which it would apply, including engineering drawings, technical manuals, instructions and computer software. Information that could be used to design, produce, operate or repair military equipment would be covered.

"The distribution statement markings in this directive shall be mandatory for all technical documents, including such information documents as working papers, memoranda and pre-

liminary reports if those documents are not already in the public domain, and if they are likely to be disseminated outside of the Department of Defense," the draft said.